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May 28, 2015

BY ELECTRONIC AND REGULAR MAIL

Federal Election Commission

Office of Complaints Examination & Legal Administration

Attn: Mary Beth deBeau ([mdebeau@fec.gov](mailto:mdebeau@fec.gov))

999 E Street, N.W.

Washington, DC 20436

Re: AR 15-04 - Republican Party of Orange County (Federal)

Dear Mr. Jordan and Ms. deBeau:

The Republican Party of Orange County (Federal) and Mark Bucher, Treasurer, submit the following in response to Mr. Jordan's May 13, 2015 letter indicating that on the basis of Findings 1 and 2, Final Audit Report for the 2007-2008 Audit Cycle, the General Counsel's office is evaluating whether to bring an enforcement action against the Republican Party of Orange County (Federal) and Mr. Bucher (hereafter collectively referred to as "RPOC").

The Commission's file in the audit matter includes several documents presented by the RPOC by and through its designated counsel, identifying the bases for the RPOC's position that the Committee should not be penalized in this matter. RPOC incorporates by reference these responses to the Commission, and requests either that the General Counsel should recommend no further action be taken or that the matter be referred to ADR settlement. If you would prefer copies rather than incorporation by this reference, please let me know.

It is important to note that since 2010 when the FEC first brought the matter to RPOC's attention, RPOC indicated that: (1) RPOC had accepted Levin funds from the California Republican Party ("CRP") with the understanding from CRP that the FEC had said that CRP could transfer Levin funds to RPOC. RPOC did not receive any definitive statement from FEC RAD analysts that contradicted the RPOC's response. The rule that CRP could make the transfer of Levin funds but that RPOC could not use such funds seemed at the time to be unusual. Nonetheless, RPOC acted in good faith on the foregoing in using those funds; and (2) from the inception of discussions with FEC audit staff during the audit, RPOC posted a debt and



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Letter to Federal Election Commission  
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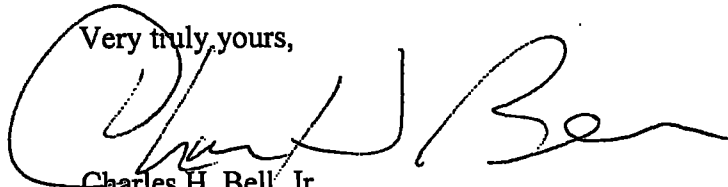
obligation on its FEC reports in a good faith effort to follow the FEC's audit staff direction, while contesting the issue in the audit appeal process.

RPOC has decided not to contest the Final Audit Report. RPOC waited for the Commission's decision on the proposed Final Audit Report (which was issued in March 2015) before proceeding with any reimbursements. Since March, the RPOC has undertaken efforts to raise appropriate funds to make reimbursement either to its own federal account or to the CRP, as suggested at the Commission's March hearing. RPOC expects to complete reimbursement in the next few weeks.

RPOC acted in good faith in this matter and should not be penalized through the FEC's enforcement process. In the alternative, this matter should be referred to the Commission's ADR process.

Please feel free to contact the undersigned, previously-designated counsel for RPOC and Mr. Bucher, if you have any questions or request further information.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles H. Bell, Jr.", written over a circular scribble.

Charles H. Bell, Jr.  
Designated Counsel for RPOC and Mark Bucher

CHB/cfd